

God's Secret Concerning Each Young Person

Now, my son, go your way. Eat your food with thanksgiving and joy and drink your wine with a merry heart, for now is the time, while you yet live on earth, to humble yourself to do the things that please God. Wear the clothes you like to wear, and keep your body clean. Set apart time for nothing but to enjoy the wife God gives you, and spend your days with her happily while your vain life is used up in labor under the sun. These are God's rewards for the labor that you must do while on earth.

God knows a secret about you, my son, a secret that He will reveal to no one but you. You know that you must labor your whole life under the sun. God's secret concerns what kind of labor will bring you the most contentment. He will not reveal that secret to me or to any wise man. Only you can find it, and there is only one way for you to do that; to wit, **whatsoever you are given to do while you are young, do it with all your might**. Only in striving with your whole heart to please the guides of your youth will you discover God's secret that will give you a thoroughly fulfilled life.

When you were a toddler, you strove with your whole heart for what you wanted, but soon, the world teased you, hurt you, divided and confused your heart, and made you ashamed of your precious sincerity. Become as a child again, my dear son, and pursue happiness again with all your heart. That is what you really want. When you were young, you were not ashamed of what you felt. Dare to be that way again.

Do not be like the cold multitudes who failed to strive with their whole heart to do their best while they were young and now have to muddle through life with whatever jobs they can find. Earnestly labor to discover that perfect work for you! God wants you to have it! Now is the time for you to do it, my son, and you will never have this opportunity again. Dig deep into the things your instructors demand of you, and if they demand more, give more. It is God's blessing you seek, not theirs! Your teachers are your servants, sent by God to help you find His secret. Somewhere in all the labor that is required of you by your elders is hidden the key to the kind of labor you would choose for yourself if you knew all things, as God does.

Many foolish people, young and old, mock sincerity and hard work. Just a few people will ever encourage you to pursue happiness the right way, and if your heart is not made up, then the encouragement of those few people will not be sufficient to shore up your young heart against the onslaught of fools. It must come from you, my son! The desire to be happy must spring from your own heart! No one can make the effort or reap its benefits for you. How happy do you want to be? Consider it, and answer me. And consider how unhappy the scoffers are who wasted their youth on lust and rebellion and who now mock the sincerity of those who diligently seek true happiness.

When you study the stars, you are searching for the secret concerning the labor that God has for you. When you study the earth and its history, you are asking God, "Is it here?" When you labor over mathematical formulas, or when you examine the ways of creatures small and great, God is watching and waiting for you to find His secret, hidden somewhere in that maze for you, and you alone. Even if you are given a small task, do it with all your strength and zeal, for it is often in unexpected places that God waits for the diligent worker to come. The lazy, the rebellious, and the careless, will never find either Him or the hidden pathway to happiness. They do not clean out the corners.

There are some subjects in which you will not have much interest. And there are, of course, some tasks given to you that you will not enjoy. All of that is acceptable. You are not required to enjoy what you do not enjoy. But if you *are* given an assignment or entrusted with a task that is not what you enjoy, still pursue it wholeheartedly. (It will help you to remember that nothing here lasts forever.) The hidden key to your happiest future may lie in the words of the last paragraph of that boring text or in the back corner of the barn you are sent to clean. Read it all. Clean the

corners. God is waiting for you somewhere in your work with the key to a happiness that none but those who are both young and wise are given.

How happy and content do you really want to be? Now is the time for you to lay the foundation for the life you really want, both here and hereafter. There is no work, nor planning, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave where you are going. Now is the time, while you are young, to discipline yourself to be diligent and obedient in all your tasks, trusting God to judge you in His righteousness.

Later in their lives, some people realize their error and try to make up for the lost opportunities of their youth. As adults, they begin their search for the kind of labor that will make their time on earth most bearable for them, but it cannot be found then. All who repent from wickedness and seek the pathway of lasting happiness when they are older are forgiven and blessed by God, but the labor they will be given under the sun will only be God's second best for them. Now, my son, while you are still young, is the only time you will ever be given to find that perfect, precious secret for your life. Most young people foolishly squander their youth on vanity, but you be diligent and wise, and in just a little while you will know what the foolish never will know, and you will be given what they will never have.